



Annual General Meeting Minutes

Venue: YMCA Kitto, Honicknowle Lane, Plymouth, PL5 3NG

Date: Sunday 25TH January 2009

Start Time: 12pm (Midday)

End Time: 2pm

Members Present:

PAULA DODDS	WAYNE SANDERS
MELVYN GERMAN	KEVIN BELLERBY
DAVE WELLBELOVED	CRAIG HOLMES
DARREN HELLEY	ROSS PARLOUR
GARETH HAWCROFT	ADAM HINES
SAM NEWLAND	STEPHEN HINES
KIERAN LUSCOMBE	PAUL BREWER
TOM YELLAND	TIM ROGERS
ANDREW AMOS	RICH McCANN
SANDY WELLS	DAN EASTMAN
JOE BISHOP	IAIN WILDE
PHIL JONES	TOM BORNET
KELVIN MILLAR	KEV COGAR
ADAM BARNARD	CHRIS STENSON
PHIL ALEXANDER	

Apologies From:

TONY WILLIAMS-BROWNE	RICHARD PERRY
MARK TANNER	ASH GIBSON
MARTIN PRAGNELL	MATT BRAMBLES
NICK POOK	
MITCH LANGE	Apologies if any are missed – Please let me know

- Review of 2008 Season
- News
- Explain the positions of responsibility within the club.
- Current committee stands down
- Vote in new Committee & Head Coach
- Discuss Players Subscriptions and Vote
- Discuss Sponsorship
- Any other Business

Paula started by welcoming everyone to the AGM. It was great to see so many people there – infact it is a record for an AGM compared to the last 5. A quick reminder of the Agenda was given.

Review of the 2008 Season

Paula started off by saying that last season was a tough season for ALL involved. We won 2 out of the 8 games played and through injuries sustained; had to forfeit the last 2 scheduled games of the season. She explained that it was an extremely difficult decision to reach as the Admirals have only ever forfeited a handful of games in the years past. Safety of players remaining fit was paramount and so the decision to forfeit was made.

Paula also stated that normally at this stage of the meeting; the accounts are made available to all should they wish to see them. That was not possible for this AGM as unfortunate circumstances left Paula and Sam Holder-Mark to control the accounts part way through the season. The only record of payments made were those made by cheque (the cheque stubs). Paula did give her personal guarantee that all monies owed by the Admirals were paid and that there were no invoices outstanding at the start of the new financial year.

News

The Admirals received a grant this year from the Awards for all programme for the sum of £8910. So far this money has been used for 20 sets of full kit, new Yard Markers, 50 newly designed game shirts and the remainder will be used for coaching/team judge courses, recruitment, promoting the club and Youth/Senior camps. This list is not exhaustive however.

The schedule has pretty much been finalised now and reads as follows:

DATE	H/A	OPPOSITION	K/OFF TIME
SUN 03.05.09	H	SHARKS	2.30PM
SUN 10.05.09	A	HAMPSHIRE	2.30PM
SUN 17.05.09	A	GLOUCESTER	4.00PM
SUN 31.05.09	H	HAMPSHIRE	2.30PM
SUN 14.06.09	H	BERKSHIRE	2.30PM
SUN 28.06.09	H	SHARKS	2.30PM
SUN 12.07.09	A	BERKSHIRE	2.30PM
SUN 02.08.09	H	GLOUCESTER	2.30PM
SUN 09.08.09	A	SHROPSHIRE	2.30PM
SAT 15.08.09	A	SHARKS	2.30PM

A few things were mentioned about the schedule:

- Gloucester 4pm Kickoff – This was agreed at the scheduling meeting as it will guarantee us referees for that game with it being a double header.
- Could the last Sharks game on 16TH August be changed to a Saturday game? This will also guarantee us ref's. A show of hands at the AGM showed that players agreed this could be changed. (Since the meeting, the league and the Sharks have been informed of the agreeance) To confirm, this game will now take place on **SATURDAY 15TH August 2009**. The schedule may still change in the time running up to the season but members will be notified in advance.
- The Sharks are playing the Olympians on May 24TH so Paula is trying to organise a trip down to support the Sharks on that day. Possibility of starting training earlier that week or cutting the session short or taking a bye week.
- Coaches to games will likely be Berkshire, Hampshire and Shropshire. Possibly drive to Sharks and Gloucester as they are only a couple of hours away.

Also mentioned as News was a friendly against Leicester Falcons either the 15TH or 22ND March – All agreed that this would be a good idea. This would take place in Plymouth as they are prepared to travel down to us and the club will likely contribute to their coach fees. Paula is in discussion with the Leicester Falcons committee and will let players know in due course.

Grosvenor Casino is hosting the Superbowl this year between the Steelers and the Cardinals. Entry will be £20 for Admirals players, members and supporters and £10 from each ticket sold will be donated back to the club. Each person will also get a free drink upon entry and access to an American Style Buffet. Each person will also get a £5 token for the slot machines and a £5 token for the Roulette as part of the promotion. All people interested in coming to the event will need to meet outside the Casino at 815-830pm and will need to bring with them Photo ID (Drivers License or Passport) if not already members. Andy Bacon the Customer Sales Manager has also given us permission to wear Game shirts or NFL Shirts on the night too. Also in the pipeline in the near future throughout the season, the Grosvenor is happy to let the Admirals hold Poker nights there. Up to 100 people can attend and the buy in will be £15. Out of that £15, £5 will come back to the Admirals account and the rest will be put towards the prize fund and payment for the event to take place. Obviously if 100 people attend then that is £500 that can come back to the club!

Explain the Roles within the club

Paula then went through and explained the roles available on the Committee of the Admirals. A brief description was given of each one and a reminder that no position is more important than any other with the exception of General Manager, Secretary and Treasurer. She explained that at this stage of the meeting is time for the existing committee members to stand down from their positions and open up the vote for the new committee. A brief mention regarding Sponsorship ensued which was that although we usually have a separate Sponsorship Secretary, it is up to everyone to try and get sponsorship even if it is individual sponsorship of a player etc. She also explained that the role of Treasurer had changed slightly whereby it would be a Subscriptions Treasurer this season so that the accounts (and use of the Grant money) can be monitored by the General Manager.

She then mentioned the following people had nominated themselves for the following positions.

Carrie Saunders	Secretary/Sponsorship Secretary
Ash (Curly) Gibson	Games Day Manager
David Wellbeloved	Media Representative
Mel German	Players Rep
Rich Perry	Subscriptions Treasurer
Phil Jones	Social Secretary
Kevin Bellerby	Health and Safety Officer & Merchandise Rep

Paula also stated that she would like to nominate herself as General Manager of the Admirals. She has been involved with the Admirals since 1991 where she was a member of the Admirals Youth Flag team the Plymouth Commodores until she was 18. She then became a supporter of the Admirals and in 2003 was elected as the new Club Secretary where she has been for the last 5 years and that she has loved every minute.

The nominees then left the room (with the exception of Phil Jones who was counting votes) and Phil Alexander then took control of the vote and asked the members present to vote on the nominees.

(Nominee's return to the room after the vote)

A vote had taken place for each position and each one was in favour of the nominee. All votes were unanimous. So congratulations to all those named above!

Paula was voted in as the new General Manager of the club and briefly gave thanks to the members present on her election.

Head Coach

Paula went on to explain the process that took place in the running up to the AGM with regards to electing the new Admirals Head Coach for 2009 after Steve Perry stepped down and moved to the USA. The position was advertised throughout the off season and the deadline for applicants was Friday 16TH January 2009. Once this deadline had passed there were 2 applicants for the position and these were due to be interviewed during the WC 19TH Jan. One applicant was in house Offensive Co-ordinator Mark Tanner and the other was Ken Tucker who previously played for the Admirals for a number of years and was the HC of the University side (Plymouth Blitz). Mark Tanner had his interview, however due to unforeseen circumstances; Ken Tucker had to withdraw his application. Mark Tanner was unfortunately unavailable for the AGM due to bereavement in the family but had prepared a statement for Paula to read to the club members present. Paula decided to read this statement to the players as she felt it had a lot of key points that would help members in their vote.

This statement is shown below for all to read.

Presentation to the Admirals

By Mark Tanner

Firstly, can I apologise for not being present, however there are occasions, be they few and far between, when Family has to take precedence over Football.

For those of you that don't know me, I have been involved in the sport since 1988. I initially started off playing Youth Kitted Football for the Brighton B52's at cornerback, safety and quarterback. I then moved onto Senior Kitted Football with the Horsham Predators (wide receiver and safety) and then Crawley Raiders (wide receiver and quarterback), before moving to the Admirals for the 1996 season. Initially I joined as a cornerback before switching over to Offense, and have played every position apart from offensive line, for obvious reasons. In 1998/99, I was also part of the Wales Dragons national team that took part in the Four Nations tournament those years and played Team USA. I made 5 appearances, 3 as starting quarterback.

My coaching credentials include, Head Coach of the Plymouth Chiefs (the pee wee flag side), then I was part of the Plymouth Blitz coaching staff, as QB/WR Coach and later Offensive Co-ordinator, and obviously I have been part of the previous Admirals coaching staff again as Offensive Co-ordinator.

For the last few years, the season has always started with people saying this is a rebuilding year and I suppose the same could be said for this year, with a new committee and more importantly a new coaching staff. It is my hope, however, that this will be the final time that we hear this and I plan to do this by initially focusing on retention. Every year we put in a fantastic effort towards recruitment and as a result have had good turnouts at rookie camps. Moving on from those camps, we usually experience a drop off in numbers which hinders us as the season progresses. Last year was a prime example.

Already this season the groundwork has been laid with several off season sessions, which have introduced several new faces to the team and hopefully they are here today. As part of my plan to keep them, the first important point is to up the intensity during training. There will still be some time when you will have to drill on air, but as that does not simulate game situations it will be kept to a minimum. I also plan to cut out any hanging about between drills which will help the session to flow.

Most importantly, I plan to make the sessions more physical. It may seem funny coming from someone as breakable as me, but over the last few years we have been physically beaten by teams like South Wales and the Sharks and that really has to stop. So as well as cutting down on the drills on air, I would like to introduce more contact into the sessions, obviously within reason, especially over the first few weeks.

By intensifying these sessions, it should create more enthusiasm and interest. However I cannot do this alone, even with the support of the coaching staff, and will therefore expect the returning experienced players to step forward and be counted. If we are to succeed as a team we need to gel as a team from day one. The coaches cannot be everywhere so if you can offer encouragement then give it, if you have advice, give it.

Over the last few years we have seen numerous changes on the Offense, as schemes have been tried and rejected. Not always my choice. This year though, I plan to stick with last years base Offense and develop it. With the many returning players we should be able to hit the ground running and move forward, getting our timings sorted at an early stage. Also key to this will be the holding of classroom session's mid-week to go through various aspects of the Offense. This will also do away with those pauses on Sunday, standing around while new schemes are implemented and questions answered.

In respect of the Defense, I feel we have the right players with the necessary skills to look at making a change to our base Defense. The introduction of this new scheme will hopefully relight the fire in that unit and make it a force to be reckoned with again.

I will not make promises of playoffs or titles but I know that the desire to succeed is in all of us. My last final was 1994 with Crawley which we lost to Cambridge, the Admirals last final was 1995 which they lost to Cambridge, and I know that before my time is done with this game I would love to reach another Final.

I promise that this season will be one hell of a ride and the question you have to ask yourself is do you jump on board or wait for the next one.

It was put to the members present that it should still be a vote but a slightly different vote than normal.

The vote was

- a) Whether the committee should re-advertise the position or
- b) Elect Mark Tanner as the new Head Coach.

Paula asked whether there were any questions at this stage and answered any to the best of her knowledge.

Paula then asked for a show of hands for each question. NO members voted to have the position re-advertised but it was a unanimous vote that we should elect Mark Tanner as the new Head Coach for the 2009 season.

Player Subscriptions and Vote

Paula explained that although this was in the Agenda, we would discuss it today but a vote would not be undertaken. The reason for this is that Paula is hoping to be able to lower subs this year from the usual £50 Registration and £150 Subs to £50 Registration and £100 subs. This would not be possible until the committee knew how many members the club would have and it was decided that this discussion would take place at a later date perhaps before or after a training session.

Any other Business

- Mandatory that people buy their own Pants this year for hygiene reasons, even though they are all washed at the end of each session. Each pair of pants will cost £20 and for this you will receive pants, 2 belts and complete set of lower pads. These MUST be worn for game day! Gumsheilds are also available (the type that attach to the helmet) for £2 and are GREEN!
- BAFCA run Coaching courses each year around March time. If anyone is interested then the club will pay the £30 fee for the course and if enough people are interested then will provide a mini bus for the travel to and from the venue. Accommodation will not be paid for. Places on each course are limited so anyone interested must leave their email address with me at the end of the session and I will email them the registration of interest form. This must be filled out and emailed back to me so that I can send them to BAFCA. Brian Smallworth is trying to get them to come down further than Bristol. I must stress though that if you want to register as a player coach then your registration fee is likely to increase. To be able to coach on the team, you MUST pay the fee to BAFCA and £15 mandatory insurance at the same time as the £50 registration to the league and Admirals.
- Helmet Decals are available for those that need them
- We buy all our kit from Forelle in Holland. If anyone is thinking of buying their own kit then order it through the club and you will get between a 25 and 35% discount. We will be doing regular orders throughout the season. If you are using club kit and decide that you would like to buy it from the club then you are also able to do that too. Kit will be sold at the same price that we paid for it to avoid any argument or loss.
- Training Session in Exeter/Kingsbridge – One Sunday in March/April we will use one of our training sessions to do a further Rookie camp in Exmouth. Exmouth Rugby club are kindly letting us use their venue to conduct a Rookie camp/Training Session to try and encourage new players to the squad. All members present at the meeting thought that this would be a good idea.
- The committee are hoping to get Team Hoodies designed and produced for this season. This is something that has been requested in the past and looks likely to happen this season. It is hoped that these will cost around £20-£25 to buy. Players will know more about this subject in due course.
- New shirts have been ordered (Paula again showed the planned design to members of the club and it is shown below for those that were not available)



Paula explained how shirts would work for this season. 50 shirts in total have been ordered. Each returning player that has already bought and paid for a number will be given a new design shirt to replace their Eagle shirt. The remaining shirts that have been ordered are a random selection of numbers and sizes and will be allocated to players according to position and in some cases preference of number. To be eligible to buy a shirt number, you must be in your 2ND season as an Admiral and not a rookie and the number must not already be in use by another player. The money obtained from shirt sales will be used to order another random number to add to the club shirts. Club shirts are those that have not been bought already and will be handed back in at the end of the session/game to be washed. The shirts have been ordered and paid for and should be here in time for the start of the season.

At this stage that was all that was needing to be said was. Paula asked if there were any more questions at this stage; to which there were none.

Meeting Ended @ 1400

These minutes are not exhaustive. Should there be anything that you feel is incorrect or needs adding in then please let Paula know on plymouthadmirals@hotmail.co.uk.

Typed by Paula Dodds, General Manager – Plymouth Admirals American Football Club

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